



## Field Activities Progress with Dryer Weather Conditions

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, July 16, 2006, were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% short, 75% adequate, and 20% surplus. Temperatures averaged above normal across most of the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. Agricultural producers continued harvesting. Spraying continued across the state. Planting of soybeans continued. Corn continued to tassel across the state. A reporter in the northern district said there was some sprouting in wheat fields, and some areas of corn and soybean fields were wash-outs. Soybeans continued to bloom in the central district, and it was reported that some fields were uneven. A southern district reporter said that ears were beginning to develop on some corn fields. Harvest of lettuces, cabbage, snap beans, sweet corn, tomatoes, herbs, and cucumbers continued. There was a report of some phytophthora blight on summer squash in the southern district. Pumpkins were in flower in the southern district. There was a report in the northern district of some cracking of peaches due to rain. Picking of blueberries continued in the central district. Bees continued to pollinate cranberries. Wheat was rated in fair to good condition. Corn and soybeans were rated in mostly good condition. Pasture was rated in mostly fair to good condition.

### JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JULY 17, 2006

**Arugula & Cilantro** – Fair to good quality products are being harvested in fair to decreasing volume with increasing temperatures.

**Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach** - Harvesting in good quality and volume. Not as affected by the heat.

**Basil** – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product with the increasing temperatures.

**Beets** – A good volume of good quality product is available.

**Blueberries** – The Bluecrop variety is being picked in volume for another 1-2 weeks. The late variety Elliott is starting this week and will be available for a few weeks in volume. Fruit quality and size for all varieties looks very good. A better than average crop this year.

**Cabbage** – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product.

**Cantaloupes & Watermelons** – Fair quality and quantity of field-grown product.

**Dill & Parsley** – A fair volume of good quality pring planted product available.

**Cucumbers** – Harvesting a good quantity of good quality Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) and Cukes.

**Eggplant** – Harvesting a good quantity of excellent quality product.

**Escarole & Endive** – Finishing up with the heat. Will be back in the fall.

**Greens** - Great quality and good quantities seen of Collards, Kale, Kholrabi, Mustard, and Swiss Chard.

**Leeks & Green Onions** – Transplanted product available in good quality and quantity. Spring planted products becoming to become available.

**Lettuce** – Finishing up with this continued heat.

**Nectarines** – Light harvest of the early variety Eastern Glo has started with volume expected later on next week. Fruit quality, including size, is very good for all varieties.

**Peaches** – The yellow clingstone Sentry variety is still being harvested in fair to declining volume. Freestone Red Haven varieties are now being harvested in fair to increasing volume. The white peach harvest has begun with light to increasing volume of the White Lady variety. Yellow and white Doughnut peaches are also available for the next 3-4 weeks. The newer white peach varieties have the look and flavor that consumers desire and the shelf life that allows you to get the peaches to them. Fruit quality, including size and color, is very good for all varieties. We'll have a volume of good quality peaches until mid-September.

**Peppers** – Harvesting a good volume of excellent quality product.

**Radishes** – Although temperature sensitive, a light quantity of good quality product should be available all season.

**Snap Beans** – Harvesting a light volume of great quality beans with the increased temperatures.

**Spinach** – Finishing up with the increasing temperatures.

**Squash** – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality Yellow and Zucchini. A light volume of good quality acorn and spaghetti squash now being harvested with Butternut expected in three weeks.

**Tomatoes** – Harvesting a good quality and quantity of field-grown product with volume increasing quickly.

**Sweet Corn** – Harvesting a good volume of good quality corn. Peak of season should be next week. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to fall insect pressures.

**Turnips** – Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.

**White Potatoes** – Good quality Redskin potatoes being harvested in light quantity with Superior round variety. There will be a large crop of good quality potatoes this year. Source your New Jersey white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags. A number of chain stores have made large displays of these in the past and they've sold quite well.